



Education Department  
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Office of Child Care  
330 C ST SW, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how Pueblo de Cochiti intends to utilize the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). The content of this letter is to inform the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how Pueblo de Cochiti anticipates using the funds received to support the child care needs in our community.

Pueblo de Cochiti plans to use CRRSA funds as outlined below:

**1. Direct Service/Subsidies:**

Pueblo de Cochiti Language Nest and Child Care will provide financial assistance to parents/guardians identified as frontline workers to access child care services for infants, toddlers and children 12 year of age and younger. This assistance will be used at a center-based location of the family's choosing.

- Each family will be required to submit a Child Care Financial Assistance Application to the Language Nest.
- Financial Assistance will be provided on a first come, first serve basis depending on availability of funds or until child care can be provided through the program.
- Based on the Pueblo de Cochiti's Standing Health Order each request will be reviewed independent of any other request.
- Health and Safety of the community is a and final approval may require from Tribal Leadership.

**2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices:**

Pueblo de Cochiti Language Nest and Child Care will expand access to resources, supplies and services to implement health and safety practices aligned to the tribal, state and federal guidance regarding COVID safe-practices and awareness. These efforts also include incorporation of preventative mandates established by the New Mexico Department of Health and the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Cochiti Pueblo will provide child care providers and education staff appropriate PPE, including hand soap, sanitizer, masks, gloves, paper towels, cleaning supplies and disinfectant.
- Pre-screening equipment such as thermo tablets for touch free temperature checks.
- Families will also receive materials and supplies to make masks such as fabric, thread, needles, elastic/string and other supplies.
- Each family will receive thermometers for self-monitoring of health and wellness.
- Provide home-enrichment kits for child care age children, up to 12 year of age.
- Address social/emotional well-being by providing family-based activity baskets and items, personal/individual items such as art kits, sport items, or other items that support health and wellness.
- Make available information regarding mental, emotional and social health.
- Importance of maintaining well-child visits including dental and vision screening along with regular scheduled vaccinations.

- Increase awareness about how to reduce infection and spread of COVID, health & safety, social/emotional wellness by providing information and materials. Books about germs and how to wash you hands properly.
- Upon opening of the Language Nest and Child Care all of the following will be required: Picture-based signage that informs parents, children and others of expectations to stay safe (Social distancing, sign-in/check-out), hand-washing or other content associated with reducing illness.
- Purchase floor markers for children when engaged in group activities such as circle-time, standing in line, taking turns or accessing play areas.
- Facility: new carpet that designates specific areas of play or small group activities, classroom management. Dividers/plexiglass for spacing including organization of space of personal items for children, storage bins, shelving, etc.
- Independent work spaces for staff, no sharing common computers or work stations.
- New washer and dryer for care of frequent used items: towels, blankets, sleep/nap cot covers, etc.
- Access to cleaning supplies: Vacuum, mops, soaps, sanitization station (electrostatic gun).
- Incorporate a quarantine area for children that may become ill.
- Additional developmental toys and items to alleviate sharing of items.

### **3. Grant or Assistance (other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers:**

- Pueblo de Cochiti will provide professional development opportunities and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs.
- Provide Hazard Pay to child care programs that provide direct services to essential workers for the duration of this pandemic or until funding is exhausted.

### **4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic:**

- Additional guidance is required at this time.

### **5. Other**

- Supplemental food assistance for children 12-years of age and younger.
- Purchase appropriate formula and diapers for infant and toddlers. Including training potty chairs/seats.
- Establish sanitization stations for Child Care staff, changing area, washing of clothing, etc.
- Require deep-cleaning and sanitization once a month of the child care facility by a commercial cleaning company.
- Work collaboratively with other organizations and agencies to address referrals to health and wellness providers for children, families of children and staff.
- Outdoor shade for outdoor social distancing activities, outdoor classroom-style environment. This also includes tables, benches and play equipment.

Pueblo de Cochiti will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60-days of implementation.

Sincerely,



Geraldine Jojola  
Education Manager  
Pueblo de Cochiti

Cc:

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